

Central Virginia Community College: “Grow Your Own” Nuclear Technology Support Program

Executive Summary:

Central Virginia Community College and local nuclear technology companies such as AREVA NP, Dominion Nuclear and Babcock & Wilcox, along with other partners, have developed and implemented a proven, comprehensive strategic workforce development initiative called the “Grow Your Own” program which targets workforce development objectives in the nuclear technology industry. The primary design philosophy of the program has been to create well-defined career pathways which extend from middle school through graduate education. Students in our five county, two city region in central Virginia called Region 2000, are nurtured along the educational continuum with career exploration, dual enrollment classes, internships and eventually local employment while completing educational programs.

Current training/education programs include: engineering, NRRPT, Quality Assurance, Repair Technology, precision machining, NDE and automation. The companies play an active role in the pipeline and provide experts in these fields, which train, mentor and interact with the students throughout the pipeline. The goal of the continuum is to introduce students to activities and programs related to the key technology and to involve the industry in as many of these activities as possible. Students earn a significant amount of college credit from work-based learning and the curriculum is designed to integrate with industry standards and requirements. This early affiliation with the companies provides many of the students with paid tuitions and books, living stipends, salary and insurance.

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